**DESCRIPTION OF SPEECH AND DEBATE EVENTS**

Speech and Debate competition is divided into three main types of events: 1) individual events, 2) student congress, and 3) debate. Within each category are subdivisions. Remember that, if the student wishes to try to qualify for the National Tournament, the student must choose a National event. Not all State events are National events.

**INDIVIDUAL EVENTS**

**SPONTANEOUS EVENTS**

**EXTEMP** (**EXTEMPORANEOUS** - STATE/NATIONAL ): This event is divided into questions about current national and international issues. Thirty minutes before speaking before judges, the student draws three topics. After selecting one, the student prepares the speech and delivers it, speaking for no longer than seven minutes

**IMPROMPTU** (IMPROMPTU - STATE ): In this event, the student actually prepares the speech in the judge’s presence. The topics vary by round from quotations to general current events to abstract words to concrete nouns. After drawing the topic, the student has two minutes to prepare the speech. The maximum speaking time is five minutes.

**ORIGINAL EVENTS**

**O.O** (**ORIGINAL ORATORY** - STATE/NATIONAL ): The student will present an original speech. The subjects vary considerably; but, regardless of the topic, the student's aim is to arouse and persuade

**O.A**. (**ORIGINAL ADVOCACY** - STATE ): The student presents an original persuasive speech which identifies a problem and offers a clear, concise legislative solution. (In NFL competition, students may use an advocacy speech in Oratory.)

**EXPOS** (**EXPOSITOR**Y - STATE ): The purpose of this speech is to inform rather than persuade. These speeches describe, clarify, illustrate, or define an object, idea, concept or process. Speakers are not required to use visual and/or **auditory aids, but most do.**

**O.P.P.** (**ORIGINAL PROSE/POETRY** - STATE ): The presentations in this event are perhaps the most varied. The presentations will be the original works of the student and may be plays, stories, poems, essays or a combination.

**INTERPRETIVE EVENTS**

**D.I./H.I.** (**DRAMATIC/HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION** - STATE/NATIONAL ): The selections will come from stories, plays, poems or other library material. The student will convey the author’s meaning through character voice(s), gestures, and facial expressions.

**O.I. (ORATORICAL INTERPRETATION** - STATE ): The selections will be speeches previously delivered in a public forum. The student’s aim is to effectively convey the message intended by the original speaker.

**T.I.** **(THEMATIC INTERPRETATION** - STATE ): In this event, the student attempts to communicate a certain theme, such as “war is hell”, by using at least three literary selections which illustrate and develop that theme.

**DUO** **(DUO INTERPRETATION** - STATE/NATIONAL): In this event, two students interpret a selection taken from a short story, a novel, a play, a poem, or other literary material. The event presents a single selection and each student presents one or more characters. Students must maintain “off-stage” focus; that is, they may not look at each other during the presentation and they may not touch each other.

**STUDENT CONGRESS**

**CONGRESS** (**STUDENT CONGRESS** - STATE/NATIONAL ): Student Congress is a mock legislative session patterned after our government’s Congress. Using parliamentary law, students debate and vote upon bills and resolutions regarding national and international problems. From this event, students learn research and analysis skills as well as extemporaneous and impromptu speaking skills. Further, students become familiar with current social and political problems and learn the appropriate behavior and rules for formal meetings. Students are evaluated on their analysis of the arguments, use of evidence, skill in asking and answering questions, and techniques of good speaking.